

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently Amended) A protective cap for sealing off the end face of a collecting vessel ~~[[1]]~~ of a condenser closed by means of a sealing stopper ~~[[4]]~~, the collecting vessel ~~[[1]]~~ having a tube wall ~~(2)~~ ~~basically~~ projecting above the sealing stopper ~~[[4]]~~, wherein characterized in that the protective cap (9, 20, 30) is made from a plastic material and is arranged in such a way that it seals off the collecting vessel in the area of the end of the tube wall projecting above the protective cap, wherein the protective cap comprises a sealing face and wherein the sealing face and the protective cap are of a two-part design.
2. (Currently Amended) The protective cap as claimed in claim 1, wherein characterized in that the sealing face of the protective cap further comprises~~[[has]]~~ a substantially planar ~~basically plane~~ annular face, which rests on the end annular face of the tube wall and seals off the collecting vessel.
3. (Currently Amended) The protective cap as claimed in claim 1, wherein characterized in that the sealing face of the protective cap further comprises~~[[has]]~~ an annular face, which rests on the peripheral inner circumferential surface of the tube wall and seals off the collecting vessel.
4. (Currently Amended) The protective cap as claimed in claim 1, wherein characterized in that the protective cap further comprises~~[[has]]~~ a gripping means, which interacts with a gripping means of the sealing stopper or the tube wall and is connected thereto.
5. (Currently Amended) The protective cap as claimed in claim 1, wherein characterized in that the protective cap further comprises~~[[has]]~~ a plug, which engages in a seat of the sealing stopper or of the tube wall.

6. (Currently Amended) The protective cap as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that the~~ protective cap further comprises[[has]] a seat, in which a plug of the sealing stopper or of the tube wall engages.
7. (Currently Amended) The protective cap as claimed in claim 5, wherein ~~characterized in that the~~ plug further comprises[[has]] a thread, such as an external thread, which engages in an internal thread of the seat.
8. (Currently Amended) The protective cap as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~characterized in that the~~ plastic is a polyamide [[(PA)]], which may be reinforced by a fiber admixture.
9. (Currently Amended) The protective cap as claimed in claim 1, further comprising ~~characterized by a peripheral sealing flange (10, 21) having a plane~~ comprising a planar sealing face [[(22)]] for bearing on the end face [[(3)]] of the tube wall [[(2)]].
10. (Currently Amended) The protective cap as claimed in claim 1, further comprising ~~characterized by a peripheral sealing flange~~ comprising (10, 21) ~~having a~~ cylindrical sealing face [[(22)]] for bearing on the inner circumferential surface of the tube wall [[(2)]].
11. (Cancelled)
12. (Currently Amended) The protective cap as claimed in claim 1[[11]], wherein ~~characterized in that the~~ sealing face is connected as an annular element to the protective cap.
13. (Currently Amended) The protective cap as claimed in claim 1[[11]], wherein ~~characterized in that the~~ sealing face is formed in one piece as an annular element together with the protective cap.
14. (Currently Amended) A protective cap for sealing off the end face of a collecting vessel of a condenser closed by means of a sealing stopper, the collecting vessel having a tube wall projecting above the sealing stopper, wherein the protective cap is made

from a plastic material and is arranged in such a way that it seals off the collecting vessel in the area of the end of the tube wall projecting above the protective cap and wherein the protective cap comprises a ~~The protective cap as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the sealing face~~ which comprises ~~is made from an elastic material, such as an elastomer.~~

15. (Currently Amended) The protective cap as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the sealing face is braced by way of the plug against the end face ~~[[ (3) ]]~~ of the tube wall ~~[[ (2) ]]~~ or the inner circumferential surface of the tube wall.
16. (Currently Amended) A protective cap for sealing off the end face of a collecting vessel of a condenser closed by means of a sealing stopper, the collecting vessel having a tube wall projecting above the sealing stopper, wherein the protective cap is made from a plastic material and is arranged in such a way that it seals off the collecting vessel in the area of the end of the tube wall projecting above the protective cap and wherein the protective cap comprises a threaded plug and a sealing face and further comprises ~~The protective cap as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the~~ a circular, conical concave surface ~~[[ (25) ]]~~ which is arranged between the threaded plug ~~[[ (24) ]]~~ and the sealing face ~~[[ (22) ]]~~.
17. (Currently Amended) The protective cap as claimed in claim 1, further comprising ~~characterized by a~~ centrally arranged, profiled knob ~~(23, 33)~~.
18. (Currently Amended) The protective cap as claimed in claim 17, wherein ~~characterized in that the~~ knob ~~(23, 33)~~ is of hollow design construction and has an outwardly open blind hole ~~(26, 33b)~~ having an approximately star-shaped cross-section.
19. (Currently Amended) A protective cap for sealing off the end face of a collecting vessel of a condenser closed by means of a sealing stopper, the collecting vessel having a tube wall projecting above the sealing stopper, wherein the protective cap is made from a plastic material and is arranged in such a way that it seals off the collecting vessel in the area of the end of the tube wall projecting above the protective cap and wherein the protective cap comprises a ~~The protective cap as claimed in claim 1,~~

~~characterized in that the~~ sealing flange [(35)] which comprises [[has]] a peripheral, raised edge [(31)].

20. (Currently Amended) The protective cap as claimed, ~~in particular,~~ in claim 19, wherein ~~characterized in that the~~ edge [(31)] has an undulating upper edge [(32)].
21. (Currently Amended) A protective cap for sealing off the end face of a collecting vessel of a condenser closed by means of a sealing stopper, the collecting vessel having a tube wall projecting above the sealing stopper, wherein the protective cap is made from a plastic material and is arranged in such a way that it seals off the collecting vessel in the area of the end of the tube wall projecting above the protective cap and wherein the protective cap comprises a sealing flange and ~~The protective cap as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the~~ a rubber sealing plate [(36)], connected to the protective cap [(30)], and [[is]] arranged on the sealing flange [(35)].
22. (Currently Amended) The protective cap as claimed in claim 21, wherein ~~characterized in that the~~ sealing plate [(36)] is buttoned or molded by means of protrusions [(37)] into holes [(38)] in the flange [(35)].
23. (Currently Amended) A protective cap for sealing off the end face of a collecting vessel of a condenser closed by means of a sealing stopper, the collecting vessel having a tube wall projecting above the sealing stopper, wherein the protective cap is made from a plastic material and is arranged in such a way that it seals off the collecting vessel in the area of the end of the tube wall projecting above the protective cap and wherein the protective cap comprises a sealing flange and ~~The protective cap as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the~~ a peripheral sealing lip which is molded onto the sealing flange.
24. (Currently Amended) A condenser comprising ~~having~~ a collecting vessel with a protective cap according to claim 1.
25. (New) The protective cap as claimed in claim 14, wherein the elastic material comprises an elastomer.